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Belgian Congo

Leopoldville/Population and Development

Leopoldville

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1. "October 1952: The Cite Indigene of Leopoldville has doubled in population since 1948 and now has 250,000 residents. Some of the homes are poor, others, particularly those of Otraco, quite nice. Employers are supposed to furnish quarters for their natives in the village, but small employers do not have enough money to do so, so the government must subsidize construction. The big companies, such as Otraco which handles commerce on the Congo, put up very nice little houses with lawns, etc.
2. "Last year a two million dollar stadium was erected, mostly for football games which are most popular. There are also basketball courts, a swimming pool, movie screens (2 nights a week for movies outside, 3 houses open every night with admission charge).
3. "There are still some bad features: sanitation is not the best; we saw some children bathing in a stream that must have had sewage in it, and there are open sewers in part of the city.
4. "In the afternoon we walked along the wharves where there is a lot of new construction, and then through one of the poorer corners of the Cite Indigene."

-end-

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